

AQS, CDX, and XML

2003 AQS Conference

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Recap

- We've heard about AQS Web and CDX
- Introducing another acronym: XML
- Key points for today:
 - Message Structure
 - Metadata = Labels on data
 - The data becomes “self-describing”
 - We're constantly changing
 - Fighting entropy (disorder)
 - Remember Thermo II?
 - Key Dates



So What is XML

- eXtensible Markup Language
- Adds data labels right into the data

“Flat File” AQS

AAI34054000374.0135434.5860...

“XML” AQS (anyone know HTML? SGML?)

```
<AQS_Input_Transaction>  
  <basic_site_information>  
    <transaction_type>AA</transaction_type>  
      <action_code>I</action_code>  
      <state_code>34</state_code>  
      <county_code>054</county_code>  
      <site_id>0003</site_id>  
      <latitude>-74.01354</latitude>  
      <longitude>+34.5860</longitude>
```

How We Must Scheme

- A “schema” is what defines the allowable labels
 - data combinations / hierarchies
 - formats, allowable values, etc.
- The schema is analogous to the paper form that holds the data
- The data is the data
- Ours will be based on the transaction formats, of course



Milestones

- Draft concept: about now
- Form team of interested users to participate on schema review team: COB today
- Workload periods for reviewers (tentative)
 - Site: Early June
 - Monitor: Throughout July
 - The rest: Early September
- Will be asked to participate in XML beta testing
- Occasionally sit in on team conference call



What's In It For Me, Nick?

- We're planning on adding necessary elements for AirNow to schema
- Allows for universal transfer of this data, not just you to us
 - Back and forth to each other
 - To your IT department for public access
 - Most spreadsheets and DBs now compatible
- Any other questions?

